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SEFTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

— OF —

Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

J. C. BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., &c.

SULGRAVE,

WALTON PARK,

LIVERPOOL,

May 15th, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sefton Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It is my pleasure to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

Population.

Estimated for 1925 is 4,528.

Births.

The total number of Births reported in the District is 59, 22 males and 37 females.

Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate is 13 per 1,000, as against 14.8 in 1924, 14.5 in 1923, 12.9 in 1922, and 13.3 in 1921.

Mean Birth Rate.

The Mean Birth Rate for 10 years 1915 to 1924 is 16.

Deaths.

The total number of Deaths belonging to the District is 51, 19 males and 32 females.

Death Rate.

The Death Rate is 11.2 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with 15.2 in 1924, 9.3 in 1923, and 10.9 in 1922.

The Rate for the past 10 years is 12.7.

Infantile Death Rate.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year of age is 84 per 1,000 born, as against 164 in 1924.

The Mean Ratio for the past 10 years is 82.5.

The Rate for 1925 is a great improvement on 1924, but if you refer to my last Annual Report you will see that the circumstances then were unavoidable, when several newly born infants were found in our District, but did not really belong to it.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Only one death occurred from the principal Zymotic Diseases, namely, one from Diphtheria in December.

Zymotic Death Rate.

The Death Rate is therefore as last year, 0.2.

Influenza.

One death only certified from this, a female.

Pneumonia.

Two deaths were reported, one male and one female.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Six cases were notified, 1 male and 5 females. Five deaths occurred, 2 males and 3 females.

Other Forms.

One case of other form of Tuberculosis died, but was in infancy and not certified. I only know of it by death returns.

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

The Tuberculosis Death Rate for 1925 was 1.10, as against 0.88 per 1,000 in 1924.

The Mean of 5 years ratio is 0.89.

Later in the Report this disease will be further referred to.

Infectious Diseases as notified.

1925.		1924.
14	Diphtheria	7
9	Scarlet Fever	10
8	Measles	4
3	Erysipelas	—
—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
34		22

Hospital Treatment.

The 14 Diphtheria cases were all removed to City Hospitals in Liverpool, and 7 of the Scarlet Fever cases, with only one death from Diphtheria.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases

Township	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Totals
West Derby Rural ...	11	2	6	—	19
Thornton	1	—	1	—	2
Netherton	—	—	2	6	8
Sefton	1	—	—	—	1
Ford	—	—	—	—	—
Inee Blundell	—	1	—	—	1
Lunt	—	—	—	—	—
Aintree	—	—	—	2	2
Croxteth	1	—	—	—	1
	14	3	9	8	34

The number of infectious cases notified has been larger than last year, but it has been general all round us. We have perhaps had less than our share.

Disinfection of Bedding, Spraying, etc.

Has been carried out by the Liverpool Health Committee as before, and always with the earliest possible promptitude and satisfaction.

Hospitals.

We have no Hospital, all cases necessary going to Liverpool as by previous arrangement.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

Particulars of work carried during 1925 :—

Visits to infected houses and premises	68
Notices to strip and cleanse premises after infection	34
Notices of Nuisance. Statutory	5
,, Informal	103
Repairs to blocked and defective drains	67
Offensive cesspools, etc., cleansed	37
Offensive ditches and watercourses cleansed	14
Accumulations of offensive water removed	30
Roofs, ashpits and closets repaired	28
Inspections relating to nuisances, etc.	893
,, ,, cowsheds	155
Complaints received from the public	20
Total ...	1,454

TOWNSHIPS.

Aintree.

With the exception of a few cases of Measles, no infectious disease has been notified, and the township is in a healthy condition. A large artificial silk factory is in course of construction here.

Ford.

This village has been wonderfully free from infection, except for Tuberculosis, all of which cases are from the Home of the Good Shepherd. This home is doing a great work, but as it takes in cases from all over the country, in a condition of debility, we have a large percentage of tuberculosis which really does not belong to your District and make my return of cases and deaths look a little worse than they are.

Netherton.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever and six of Measles were reported here.

The new factory so far is not causing any nuisance.

Several cottages are in a bad condition, but I hope that soon some new ones will be built.

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No deaths occurred from the infectious diseases mentioned. The school was closed in March for three weeks owing to Measles. Further reference to this later in this Report.

Sefton.

One case of infection, Diphtheria, occurred here and recovered. One death occurred here from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The River Alt does not cause so many complaints as it did, but is still a very grave nuisance. Any amount of sewage is still being discharged into it, but the County Council are now taking charge of it.

Thornton.

One case of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever have occurred here, both recovering with no further spread.

The slaughter house here has been periodically inspected, and quite to my satisfaction.

Lunt.

Except for one or two matters of drainage which are under observation, nothing calls for special comment here.

Ince Blundell.

One case of Erysipelas was reported here. Housing here will be commented upon under that heading.

West Derby Rural.

Eleven cases of Diphtheria and one death from it have been notified. As most of the cases have been at Deysbrook Children's Hospital (West Derby Union) they do not belong to your District, but come from all parts of the Union, but have to be notified to me and have to be classified as such. Six cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Erysipelas were also notified.

The cowsheds and piggeries have been constantly inspected, and are satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

None exist in the District.

Factories and Workshops.

One factory and two workshops exist, and are carried on in a satisfactory manner.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

The New Regulations are strictly carried out and many improvements have been made. They are closely watched, and inspections have been on the whole satisfactory.

Housing.

Like other districts, we have been in difficulty ; we have yet many condemned houses occupied. In addition to the 36 new cottages you erected some years ago, you have been endeavouring to erect more, but as your plans and estimates have twice been turned down by the Ministry, you have been placed in a difficult position. However, I am pleased to state you now have their sanction for 18 new cottages, which, at the time of writing this Report, are already in an early state of construction. This will relieve a great deal of your stress, but more will be required before you do what you are trying, namely, make this as near as possible to a model district. Times have been all against you, but you have done your best, and will, I know, endeavour to carry out your plan of relieving this national necessity.

Housing Statistics for the year.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total (including Nos. given separately under (*b*)	7
(*b*) With State Assistance under Housing Acts	2
No. of Houses in course of erection under Council's Scheme	18

Financial Assistance for purpose of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

(*a*) By Loans ? No. Amount of Loans, Nil.

(*b*) By Subsidy ? Two. Amount of Subsidies, £150.

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection :—

(1) Total No. of Dwelling Houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	48
(2) No. of Dwelling Houses which were inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	640
(3) No. of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
(4) No. of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	28
No. of defective Dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	7

Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925	None
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) No. of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(*a*) By Owners	5
(*b*) By Local Authority	None
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	None

Nature of District. Nearly all agricultural. One new factory opened and a large one now in course of construction at Aintree.

Water Supply. Good. All supplied by Liverpool Mains except a few outlying cottages, which have to depend on wells.

Closing of School. The Netherton R.C. School was closed in March for three weeks on account of the prevalence of Measles.

SURVEY.

The Ministry of Health ask for a survey report covering the last five years, and I will proceed :—

Area. 10,689 acres.

Population. Census 1921, 4,643. Estimated 1925, 4,528.

Physical Features and General Character. Nearly all agricultural. One new factory opened and another large one in course of construction.

No. of Houses Inhabitated. 912.

No. of Families or Separate Occupiers. 931. (Census 1921.)

Rateable Value. £44,740.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £186.

Social Condtions and Chief Occupations. Mostly Farmers and Labourers. Some private residents and business men.

Influence of any Occupation on Public Health. None.

Amount of Poor Relief. £456 11s. 0d.

Hospital Relief. West Derby Union Hospitals. Not many cases. This District is all part of West Derby Union.

Hospitals. The County Council have their Sanatoriums to which we have access for Tuberculosis.

We have no Hospitals, nor do the County Council provide us with any.

Our infection, as for years past, is taken by agreement to the Liverpool City Hospitals.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.	No provision made.
Ambulance Facilities.	None. Liverpool Health Committee supply what we want. Non-infectious cases, West Derby Union.
Clinics and Treatment Centres.	None.
Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Venereal Diseases.	None.
Public Health Officers of Local Authority.	Dr. J. C. Bradshaw, M.O.H., part time ; Mr. Frederick Pool, Sanitary Inspector, part time, but whole time servant of Council, holding other offices, Building, Highways, etc., also Food Inspector. We have no Health Visitors or Special Nurses.
Professional Nursing in Home.	None.
Midwives.	No subsidy by Council.
Number Practicing in the Area.	I cannot say. None resident. They come out of other districts.
Chemical Work.	Has not been required.
Legislation in Force.	No Local Acts. Housing Act. The Public Health Act and Bye-Laws of the Council. New Building Bye-Laws since 4th December, 1925. Regulations of Ministry, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, 23rd May, 1923, adopted and enforced.
Water Supply.	This matter, which many years ago was the greatest difficulty your Council had to contend with, has for many past years been in a most satisfactory condition. Practically the whole of this wide district is supplied by the Liverpool Water Mains ; only a few outstanding cottages have to depend on wells, the expense of extending the mains being too severe. I have no record of the number of houses supplied, but only one stand pipe is used. No chance of contamination and no risk of Plumbo Solvent action. No action taken during the year for contamination.
River and Stream Pollution.	The River Alt is somewhat improved, but still carries a great quantity of sewage. However the County Council have now jurisdiction in the matter.
Drainage and Sewage.	Naturally in a wide spread Rural District difficulty must exist, as it is economically impossible to sewer all the dwellings, farm yards, etc. What can be done is done, and where possible any sewer, Liverpool or other, is used. Septic tanks and irrigating drains and a large number of cesspools remain our only outlet.

Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens	540
Closets attached	634
Pail Closets	9
Fresh Water Closets	379
Converted into Fresh Water Closets, 1921-5 ...	12

Every effort is being made to convert, but it is often impossible in a rural district.

Scavenging.

The Council remove all refuse in West Derby Rural. Occupiers responsible in rest of district. The number of moveable ashbins for refuse is 318.

Sanitary Inspect'n of the Area.

This has been systematic, and a record of work done and results of work are as follows :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Visits to infected houses	50	54	58	64	68
Notices to strip and cleanse	38	15	27	30	34
Notices of Nuisance, Statutory ...	19	13	11	15	5
,, Informal ...	45	69	88	110	103
Repairs to drains	34	37	49	60	67
Cesspools emptied	—	16	23	34	37
Ditches cleansed	12	8	7	9	14
Offensive water removed	32	41	33	28	30
Roofs, Ashpits and Closets repaired ...	25	29	27	25	28
Nuisance inspections	890	1089	820	933	893
Cowshed inspections	—	83	254	180	155
Complaints received	19	25	28	26	20

Smoke Abatement

Kept under observation. Only two factories which are well away from dwellings.

Offensive Trades.

Only one, soap boiling, well away from houses, and so far has caused no trouble.

Schools.

Sanitary conditions good. Water supply from Liverpool mains. One School closed during this year for Measles. (See townships, Netherton.)

Housing.

This has been referred to earlier in my Report. There is still a shortage of houses, but you are now building 18 new ones, which will relieve to a great degree. There is no overcrowding.

Fitness.

Houses old, and therefore cannot be expected to go on for ever. Many of them are too old for the owners to repair, and during the last five years I have advised you not to turn the people out, even when the cottages were condemned, until such time as you could provide alternate accommodation.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year—
(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*) 7
(*b*) With State assistance under Housing Acts 2
Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Scheme 18

Financial assistance for purpose of increasing housing accommodation :—
Have any advances been made during 1925—
(*a*) By Loans ? No. Amount of Loans, Nil.
(*b*) By Subsidy ? Two. Amount of Subsidies, £150.

Unfit Dwelling Houses—
Inspection—
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 48
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 640
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or unjurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 24
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 28

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 7

Action under Statutory Powers—
(A) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 ... ... None
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects be remedied... 5
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
(*a*) By Owners 5
(*b*) By Local Authority ... ... None
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 ... None

Inspection and and Supervision of Food. Milk Supply. — Satisfactory. Cowsheds and dairies regularly supervised.

General Adequacy for Distribution. — Satisfactory.

Administration of Acts, 1915, and Amendment, 1922. — Working satisfactorily.

Special Order, 1923.	No certified, graded (tuberculin tested) or grade A milk, and no pasteuring plant.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	Periodical inspection. Their condition is good.
Amount of Space in cubic feet per Cow.	600, whether habitually grazed or not.
Cow-keepers.	No. 32, all on Register.
	No. of inspections, see previous page.
Any Veterinary Inspection Arrangement.	None.
Action taken.	1 Tuberculous milk. 2 Tuberculous cattle. Cows slaughtered and carcases destroyed on proving tuberculous.
Number of Samples of Milk obtained during 1925 for Bacteriological Examination.	Samples taken by County Council officials when tuberculosis is suspected.
Meat Inspection.	Mr. Pool has been appointed Meat Inspector under the Regulations 1924, and supervises I. II. and III.
Slaughter Houses.	One private slaughter house at Thornton, and is duly licensed.
Other Foods.	No Bakehouses and only a few small village shops in the District, and such are all kept in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases and Control. Five Years Statement of Cases Notified.

Year	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
1921	1	2	35	5	—
1922	1	3	5	4	—
1923	5	3	10	—	1
1924	7	—	9	4	—
1925	14	3	9	8	—

Deaths from above.

1921	1 Diphtheria, 1 Measles.
1922	No deaths from Zymotic Diseases.
1923	No deaths.
1924	1 Diphtheria (an adult).
1925	1 Diphtheria.

Pneumonia and Influenza.

1921	...	...	2	deaths from	Penumonia	and 2	Influenza.
1922	...	...	7	,,	,,	,, 3	,,
1923	...	...	6	,,	,,	,, 1	,,
1924	...	...	9	,,	,,	,, 2	,,
1925	...	...	2	,,	,,	,, 1	,,

Verminous Persons. I never see any.

No Schick and Dick tests have been used ; in fact nearly all Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases go to Liverpool Hospitals.

Vaccinations. None done by M.O.H. What there are go to private practitioners or the Public Vaccinator.

Infectious Diseases again. I do not think we suffer much, considering we join a large city and parts of our District dovetail into that city.

Tuberculosis.

	Age			Pulmonary	New Cases. Non-pulmonary	Deaths All Pulmonary
Years	0— 1	...	...	—	1 F.	—
	15—20	...	...	2 F.	—	2 F.
	25—30	...	...	2 F.	—	1 M.
	35—45	...	...	1 M. 2 F.	—	1 F.
	55—65	...	...	—	—	1 M.

Caravan. One case, female, 15 years, died in a caravan and was not reported. Day she died caravan went to Stafford(?) with deceased. There we must leave it.

Notification. Good.

Action. None required.

Excessive Percentage. The Home of the Good Shepherd, Ford.

Public Health Act. 1925. Section 62. No action taken or required.

Public Health (Prevention) Regulations, 1925. No action has been required.

Tuberculosis Schemes. We have no Dispensary, and therefore no Officers. No residential Institution.

Isolation. Every precaution is taken, and instructions as to risk of infection, destroyal of sputum, and all other directions. As previously stated in ordinary report, County Council take cases to their Sanatoria, and hopeless cases are taken in at West Derby Union Institutions.

Non ~~From~~ Pulmonary Tuberculosis Orthopaedics.

We get very little, and any suitable case goes to Liverpool or West Derby Union Hospitals for Orthopaedic treatment.

Venereal Diseases.

We have no Dispensary or Clinic.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

No Officials appointed and no Clinics. Very little requirement. Some years ago the Council did appoint a lady Visitor, but it was discontinued as she had so little to do.

Water Supply.

Already referred to. Very good. Only a few outlying houses depending on wells.

Summary.

The past year has been satisfactory. The Birth Rate is low, as also is the Death Rate. The Infantile Mortality Rate is a great improvement.

Improvements. needed.

More conversions of privies to water closets, particularly in Netherton. Yet more houses.

Closing.

At the time of closing this Report, very few cases of infectious disease exist, and the condition generally of the District is satisfactory, considering the awkward times we are living in.

Copies.

I am sending copies as usual, 6 to the Ministry of Health, 3 to the Principal Medical Officer, 1 to the County Council and the Home Office, and 1 to each Member of the Council.

I have the honour to be, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.